

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON288PC

REMARKS

By the present amendment and response, claim 91 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections. Claims 91-119 remain in the present application and claims 111-119 have been allowed. Reconsideration and allowance of outstanding claims 91-110 in view of the following remarks are requested.

In the Office Action dated January 20, 2004, the Examiner has *finally rejected* claims 91-110 pending in the application on the basis of new ground(s) of rejection and newly cited art. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the finality of the rejection of the Office Action dated January 20, 2004.

A good and sufficient reason why the present response is necessary and was not earlier presented is that an entirely new reference has been cited in the present final rejection dated January 20, 2004 (37 CFR §1.116(c)). The new reference is Bert et al. (USPN 4,792,773) (hereinafter "Bert"), which is for the first time brought to Applicant's attention by means of the present *final rejection* dated January 20, 2004. The new reference, i.e. Bert, was not cited in the present application prior to the instant final rejection. Since Bert is a reference upon which the Examiner has now relied, Applicant believes that it would be manifestly unfair for the Patent Office not to consider Applicant's arguments, which are necessitated due to the newly cited reference, Bert.

The Examiner has rejected claims 91-110 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph. Applicant has amended claim 91 in response to the Examiner's objection and submits that the requirements of 35 USC §112, first paragraph, have been met.

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON288PC

The Examiner has rejected claims 91, 95-96, 98-105, and 107-110 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Bert. For the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as defined by amended independent claim 91, is patentably distinguishable over Bert.

The present invention, as defined by independent claim 91, teaches, among other things, "a first ground plane integral to said single interconnect substrate and operatively associated with said first active chip" and "a second ground plane integral to said single interconnect substrate and operatively associated with said second active chip," and respective first and second discrete components mounted on and situated on the single interconnect substrate. As disclosed in the present application, the present invention provides split ground planes on the same or different metal layers of a single interconnect substrate to advantageously obtain RF isolation between a plurality of active circuit chips on the single interconnect substrate. As a result, the present invention advantageously achieves a reduction in the amount of unwanted RF interference between functionally distinct portions of a multiple chip module, where each functionally distinct portion is associated with a respective one of the active circuit chips. Additionally, the present invention provides a multiple chip module that can include a number of discrete components, such as resistors, capacitors, and inductors, which can be advantageously surface mounted or printed on the surface of the single interconnect substrate.

In contrast to the present invention as defined by amended independent claim 91, Bert does not teach, disclose, or suggest "a first ground plane integral to said single

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON288PC

interconnect substrate and operatively associated with said first active chip" and "a second ground plane integral to said single interconnect substrate and operatively associated with said second active chip," and respective first and second discrete components mounted on and situated on the single interconnect substrate. Bert specifically discloses an ultra high frequency circuit including active components 2 and 3, which are attached to a first main face of substrate 1 by respective metallizations 4 and 5. See, for example, column 2, lines 47-53 and Figure 1 of Bert. In Bert, ground plane 9 is situated on the second main face of substrate 1 and can be coupled to metallizations 4 and 5 by respective first and second parasite capacities C1 and C2. See, for example, column 3, lines 13-21 and Figure 2 of Bert.

Thus, in Bert, active components 2 and 3 are associated with a single ground plane, i.e. ground plane 9. The Examiner refers to a first ground plane as being a "first part" of ground plane 9 and a second ground plane as being a "second part" of ground plane 9. However, although ground plane 9 can be described in different ways, ground plane 9 is still only a single ground plane. Thus, Bert fails to teach, disclose, or suggest first and second ground planes integral to a single interconnect substrate and operatively associated with respective first and second active chips, as specified in amended independent claim 91.

In Bert, capacity C' is formed by block 11 and metallizations 8 and 12 and is situated on the first main surface of substrate 1. See, for example, column 4, lines 26-28 and Figure 5 of Bert. However, Bert fails to teach, disclose, or suggest a second discrete

Attorney Docket N .: 01CON288PC

component situated on the single interconnect substrate as specified by amended independent claim 91.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention, as defined by amended independent claim 91, is not suggested, disclosed, or taught by Bert. As such, the present invention, as defined by amended independent claim 91, is patentably distinguishable over Bert. Thus claims 95-96, 98-105, and 107-110 depending from independent claim 91 are, *a fortiori*, also patentably distinguishable over Bert for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 92-94 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bert in view of U.S. patent number 5,652,466 to Hirakawa et al. As discussed above, amended independent claim 91 is patentably distinguishable over Bert and, as such, claims 92-94 depending from amended independent claim 91 are, *a fortiori*, also patentably distinguishable over Bert for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in each dependent claim.

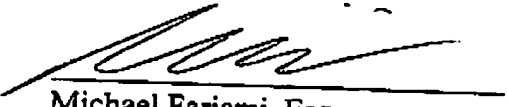
The Examiner has further rejected claim 97 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bert in view of U.S. patent number 5,818,699 to Yoshitaka Fukuoka. As discussed above, amended independent claim 91 is patentably distinguishable over Bert and, as such, claim 97 depending from amended independent claim 91 are, *a fortiori*, also patentably distinguishable over Bert for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in the dependent claim.

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON288PC

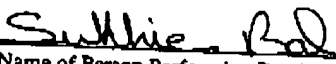
The Examiner has further rejected claim 106 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bert. As discussed above, amended independent claim 91 is patentably distinguishable over Bert and, as such, claim 106 depending from amended independent claim 91 are, *a fortiori*, also patentably distinguishable over Bert for at least the reasons presented above and also for additional limitations contained in the dependent claim.

Based on the foregoing reasons, the present invention, as defined by amended independent claim 91 and claims depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. Thus, claims 91-110 are patentably distinguishable over the art cited by the Examiner. For all the foregoing reasons, an early allowance of outstanding claims 91-110 and an early Notice of Allowance for all claims 91-119 remaining in the present application is respectfully requested.

Attorney Docket No.: 01CON288PC

Respectfully Submitted,
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